

45560 to 45564—Continued.

45562. "(No. 214. Avocado No. 34. November 20, 1917.) *Ishim*. Cuttings of a tree from the sitio of Ignacio Hernandez, at San Lorenzo del Cubo, near Antigua.

"While most avocados in the Antigua region do not ripen their fruits until February or March, this one matures its entire crop by the end of November. It can be considered, therefore, a very early variety, and as such is worthy of a trial in California, where early varieties of the Guatemalan race are needed. Its only visible defect is its somewhat large seed. The quality is good, and the fruit is attractive in appearance.

"The parent tree is growing in a small coffee plantation belonging to Ignacio Hernandez, situated on the hillside above San Lorenzo del Cubo, a village some 3 miles from Antigua. The altitude is about 5,500 feet. The tree is about 35 feet high, broad and spreading in habit, with a fairly dense crown 40 or 45 feet broad, slightly inclined to droop. The trunk is divided into two main branches, one about 1 foot thick at the base, the other 9 inches. The larger branch divides 8 feet from the ground into two main limbs. The growth seems to be reasonably vigorous and the branchlets are well formed and stout. The bud wood appears to be quite satisfactory.

"This location is not sufficiently high to experience cold weather, hence the variety must be assumed to be of average hardiness for the Guatemalan race until it can be given a trial in the United States.

"The productiveness of this variety is somewhat in doubt. The crop harvested in 1917 was not large. The tree bloomed heavily in December and was setting a good crop when last seen. The season of ripening extends from October to the first of December. Probably the fruits would remain on the tree later than December if given an opportunity to do so, but as avocados are very scarce at this season of the year they are picked as soon as mature.

"The form of the fruits, pear shaped to obovoid, is attractive, as is the deep maroon color which they assume upon ripening. They are of convenient size, about 12 ounces, and the flesh is yellow and of good quality. The seed is larger than in the best late varieties, but not unreasonably large. It is tight in the cavity.

"Following is a formal description of the fruit:

"Form most commonly pyriform, but sometimes obovate; size below medium to medium, weight 10 to 12½ ounces, length 4 to 5 inches, greatest breadth 2½ to 3½ inches; base narrow to rounded, the stem inserted obliquely almost without depression; apex rounded or obtusely pointed, somewhat flattened around the stigmatic point; surface almost smooth, sometimes pitted, deep dark maroon in color, with numerous small light-maroon dots; skin unusually thin for this race, slightly less than one-sixteenth of an inch, soft, tender, peeling fairly readily when the fruit is ripe, but leaving some purplish coloration on the flesh; flesh fine grained, buttery, cream yellow in color, with slight fiber discoloration in some specimens, but no actual fiber, the flavor moderately rich and nutty; quality good; seed large, broadly conical to nearly spherical in form, weighing 1½ to 2¼ ounces, tight in the seed cavity."

45563. "(No. 215. Avocado No. 35. November 20, 1917.) *Kanan*. From the sitio of Ignacio Gonzales, at San Lorenzo del Cubo, near Antigua.